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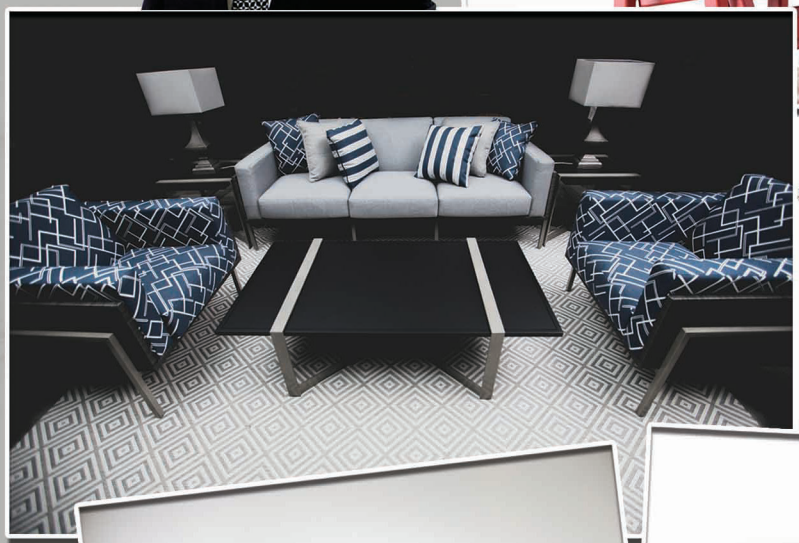

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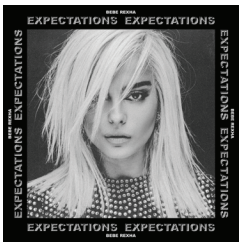
ON THE COVER
Kelly Holstine is Minnesota's 2018 Teacher of the Year, and the first GLBT person to receive the honor.
Photo courtesy of Kelly Holstine

ONLINE

Online Magazine



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FROM THE EDITOR | BY CHRIS TARBOX

Let's Get This Party Started

Break out the drinks. Turn up the music. And throw on those rainbows. It's Pride time, baby!

Even after the release of our massive Pride Edition, the party don't stop, because it's Pride Weekend in the Twin Cities, and *Lavender* presents to you a wealth of awesome parties and events for this weekend celebration thanks to our 2018 Pride What To Do guide.

This guide has something for everyone, from weekend celebrations at The Saloon and eagleBOLTbar, to Pride dance parties at First Avenue and the Pourhouse, to drag shows and rooftop parties galore. And don't forget Lavender's Pride Score Thursday at LUSH!

On top of that, get closer to the local rainbow community with a look at Kelly Holstine, the first-ever GLBT Teacher of the Year in Minnesota; we learn about the lives of the deaf queer community; and we speak with the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans about their mission to assist gay veterans facing homelessness. We also explore the tasty treats of Fireroast Cafe in South Minneapolis, as well as the homey locales of Eau Claire.

Regardless of how you celebrate, this is YOUR time, rainbow folks, and we're privileged to be able to share this amazing weekend with you. ■

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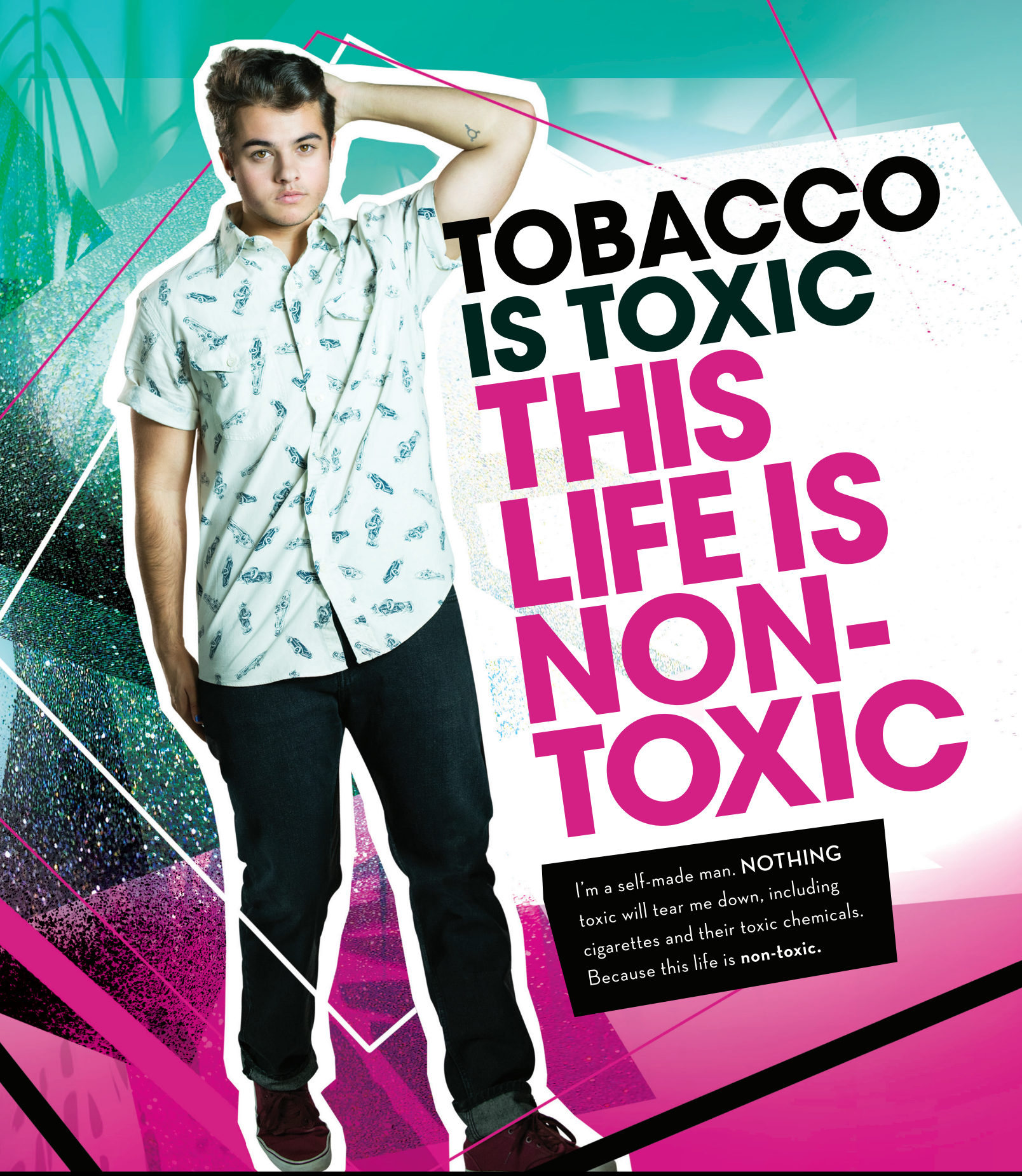
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A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

Can We Talk?

Language is communication. We humans have communicated for tens of thousands of years, using sounds and symbols to inform, mislead, include or exclude others. Learning even one other language can give insights into a different culture and add nuance to one's thinking.

We were not "always" an English-speaking country. Certainly not those first breaching the shores of the New World and pushing out the indigenous many-tongued speakers already inhabiting that vast area. The native Lenape people already occupied the region that the first Dutch settlers named Nieuw Amsterdam in 1626, and the conquering English rechristened New York in 1664.

There has been a continuous Hispanic (and obviously Spanish-speaking) presence in this country since the 16th century, when explorer Juan Ponce de León landed in Le Florida in 1513. Great numbers of Spaniards also sailed up the East Coast to Bangor, Maine, and the West Coast up to Oregon. They were the first Europeans to reach the Appalachian Mountains, the Mississippi River and the Grand Canyon.

Of course, there were also throngs of English settlers and explorers speaking English, but the French, Swedes, Norwegians, Finns and Germans each had a strong, early presence in this country, bringing to their settlements their distinct languages and cultures. There was a Jewish (German-, Spanish- and Yiddish-speakers) presence since Joachim Gans was noted to be the first Jewish-born inhabitant in 1854, and—though harder to pin down the exact dates—Muslims have been in this country since the early 16th century and perhaps earlier.

All our ancestors (unless one is of Native American descent), whether they stepped onto Cape Cod from the Mayflower in 1620, were Scandinavians coming to Minnesota from the mid-19th century, or arrived later, filtering through Ellis Island from a myriad other countries to disperse throughout the land, all came from somewhere else, all bearing their cultures and religious beliefs, their means of communication.

None of this is secret, yet suddenly, in the face of all historical records, many are declaring America to be a white, Christian, English-speaking-only nation/enclave. How does one correct this? Here I preach to the choir, while a dialogue requires a nuanced, non-binary, non-either-or means of discussion. How do we restore the motto that reveals our original source of strength, "E Pluribus Unum"? ■

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THE KINDA FELLA I AM – STORIES

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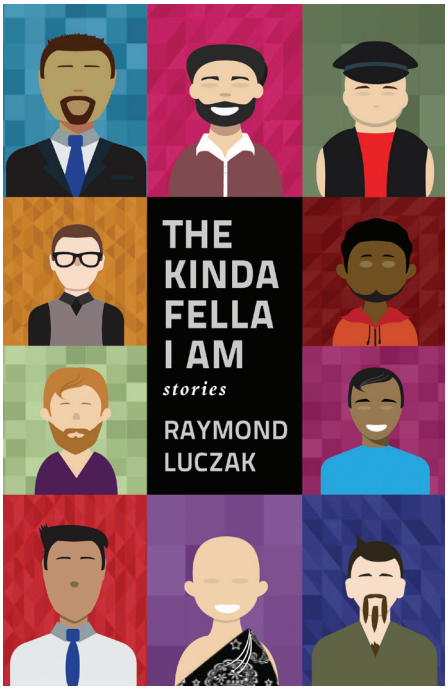
It is right that those who write bravely are acknowledged for doing so. Moreover, those who write both bravely and brilliantly must be all the more acknowledged and read widely by a large audience, especially if they have the gifted genius of speaking from a marginalized viewpoint in a way that can enthrall both marginalized and mainstream readerships. In the GLBT community, we have examples of this with Mary Renault's novels, William Inge's plays, and Walt Whitman's poetry. However, one of the great living exemplars of this remarkable quality lives and writes right in Minneapolis—Raymond Luczak. He writes from the personal intersections of gayness and disability. And if you think what he has to say is simply warmed-over political guilt-tripping, you couldn't be more wrong. Luczak's searing insights on lookism go well beyond standard progressive canards. He reveals intimate situations experienced, suffered, and overcome by gay men with disabilities that will only move any attentive reader. If ever there was a deep surgical treatment for decreasing homophobia in the masses, it would be Luczak's writings. And queer folks and their allies will also be compelled to face their own misjudgments. Misconceptions on disability and sexuality abound all over.

Luczak's latest Reclamation Press compilation, *The Kinda Fella I Am – Stories*, is an utterly transporting work that takes us into realms of the taboo and shows how important it is to come to terms with it. Despite the sexual correctness that has thwarted both the political Right and Left over the decades, Luczak cuts to the jugular with no inhibitions. He is simply guileless.

There is an ubiquitous taboo to desexualize and infantilize persons with disabilities. Luczak hurls himself full throttle, and yet meticulously, against that with this volume's various stories. In "Cartography," a man with psoriasis, which is noncontagious, regularly frequents a gay bathhouse. Such establishments have a lot of dim lighting. The author addresses the tyranny of the gay beauty culture standard. Any reader will likely be made to consider whether or not most people of any orientation, whether we admit it or not, are drawn to a beauty ideal, either naturally or by programming. The protagonist wears a T-shirt to cover his affected chest and back: "The darkness is my security blanket." Psoriasis is recipe for pity and rejection in this erotically charged atmosphere where sexiness rules and "the steam, thick and languorous, rises and shields only the faces of those who've splayed their legs apart on a towel. Something inevitably happens. That's why this room is so popular."



The Kinda Fella I Am.
Image courtesy of Reclamation Press

In "Lazarus," the problem of not being who you once were—in this case, because of multiple sclerosis (MS)—is about as universal a story as you can imagine. It achingly contrasts the glacial way the body resists the most basic movements—for instance, getting up in the morning and trying to balance oneself with a crutch—with memories of past sensuality. Robert recalls "days of disco music and poppers." After waking up with an erection, he "cursed himself all day for not having his last date." We meet a man who once could have gotten any man he wanted, but now he is jeered at by boys who cruelly squeal, "Look! That fag can't even swish!"

If any story rages against the machine it's the volume's title story, "The Kinda Fella I Am." A bond is formed between four disabled men who vibrantly rail against erotophobia. The story "Of-Course" deals with the frustrated homo-romantic desire of a deaf gay man: "He envied the deaf blind woman for touching Todd's thick and nimble fingers." In "A Crip Fairy Tale," young Sebastian, who suffers from osteogenesis imperfecta, has honed his rapier wit on Oscar Wilde and Quentin Crisp in order to attract a specific kind of man. Indeed, Luczak also draws from the gay literary legacy. Those who came out and up in the Post-Stonewall era you may find he echoes of John Rechy and Andrew Holleran.

LOVE NEVER DIES

June 26 – July 1
Orpheum Theatre, 901 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
800-982-2787
www.hennepintheatretrust.org

A decade after his 1907 tale from the Paris Opera House, the Phantom of the Opera has escaped to New York's Coney Island, of all places! But when you think about it, it makes diabolical sense. Despite all the frenetic energy of the place, he still obsesses over Christine, the endearing soprano. Gardor Thor Cortes comes directly from the Hamburg production of the *Phantom of the Opera* sequel, *Love Never Dies*, to play the demonic role. Meghan Picerno plays Christine. Simon Phillips (*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*) directs. Creator Andrew Lloyd Webber states, "I have the great joy of being able to say that I think this production is probably the finest one I could ever, ever hope for."

Love Never Dies. Photo by Joan Marcus

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UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL

Through July 1
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www.latteda.org

Theater Latté Da is renowned for its musical richness. It has commissioned Grammy-winning Frank London, founding member of The Klezmetics, to compose music for Glen Berger's play, *Underneath the Lintel,* featuring Sally Wingert. With music direction by Dan Chouinard and vocalist Natalie Nowytski, you can expect something special. Berger relates, "When (production director) Peter Rothstein approached me with the idea of setting original music to this play that I thought I was done with 15 years ago, and to commission my genius colleague and some-time collaborator Frank London, I thought… hell yes. All my plays are first inspired by music, and *Underneath the Lintel* was inspired particularly by certain Klezmer/Yiddish music from the 1920s and earlier."

ROMEO AND JULIET

Through July 15
Various Twin Cities Parks
651-321-4024
www.classicalactorsensemble.org

William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is beloved by GLBT audiences because of its unsurpassed irony in two youngsters daring to transgress their society in the name of forbidden love. Classical Actors Ensemble is presenting what is probably the most popular play ever outdoors at various local parks. Director Joseph Papke shares, "I think stories like *Romeo and Juliet* are relevant to all times—their universality is what makes them classics. Everyone's been young, everyone's been in some form of love, and everyone has had the random caprice of fate bring misfortune to them. *Romeo and Juliet* is particularly engaging and cathartic… the characters are experiencing more than the average person and all in a compressed time frame. So audiences can not only draw their own parallels to their own lives, but also—if we're doing our job well—vicariously experience a satisfying journey of anticipation, romance, passion, fear, rage, and grief. I should add that this play is quite funny, believe it or not."

WEST SIDE STORY

Through Aug. 26
Guthrie Theater, 818 S 2nd St.
Minneapolis
612-377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

Romeo and Juliet. Photo by Travis Voels

West Side Story is planted in GLBT history because of gay writer Arthur Laurents's powerful book, which resets William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* in the 1950s Big Apple where rival street gangs wreak havoc. And of course, there are Stephen Sondheim's glorious lyrics. Guthrie director Joseph Haj has directed the current revival and it's likely a sure bet. His best work since he began as Artistic Director in 2015 has been a stunning revival of *South Pacific*. So it's pretty safe to expect that his *West Side Story* will be something to be reckoned with. Haj states, "It has long been a dream of mine to direct *West Side Story,* and I couldn't be more excited to embark on this journey with a dream team of collaborators. When I think of *West Side Story* I think of immigration tensions and a community divided in a brutal and violent world. I also think of love, dreams, and ambitions, and my own family's journey to become 'American.'"

WINTER SPRINGS, SUMMER FALLS

www.annreed.com

Ann Reed is without a doubt a singer-songwriter for all seasons. She has a mammoth following among lesbian music lovers and feminist activists. However, she is an artist whose vision reaches out universally. The contemplative, yet stirring, essence of most of her tunes take us not only to a space of deep feeling, but of reflection. Indeed, reflection is a quality that is terribly rare among human beings. And if there is any contemporary music figure who can guide us to a space of reflection, it is the wonderful Ann Reed.

Her sublime CD, *Winter Springs, Summer Falls,* is an exquisite example of this. It is filled with delicate moments, though there is nothing weak or fragile in what they impart. Sometimes there is strength in vulnerability. And to be sure, she also gives us moments of rambunctious joy. Though Reed is sometimes compared to such legends as Joni Mitchell, Mary Travers and Joan Baez, it is crucial to note that her uniqueness is her own. She walks a path that one can say is in the folk tradition of those women, but Reed's paradoxical power of being stirring and contemplative simultaneously is totally distinct to her.

Winter Springs, Summer Falls furthers Reed's reputation as a remarkable poet. "Stars Come Out at Night" is a transcendent meditation on our connection to the literal universe up there where we look up at the stars in the night time. Stars are likened to humans and who knows, maybe stars too have their own spirits: "*When a star is tired / it sets in motion / A final trip on fire / a fall into the ocean.*" In "Fine Cup of Tea," Reed muses "*Tell you what I trust / Ghosts are family / The way they stay in touch / Keep me company.*" Now this tune is mysteriously beautiful. What does it mean? It seems to me to be about reflection upon one's life and finding a way to be more at ease with/in it and life's ongoing parade of difficulties and sadness. Having a fine cup of tea means perhaps that we might ultimately meet in a state of resolved differences, friendliness, and completion after having been at odds. This is a good outcome, most definitely. But nonetheless, there will always be regrets. Whether this is what it really means, is actually beyond me. But this is the ephemeral Ann Reed magic. Her thoughts, so poetically sung, can open up the portal to healing psychic wounds of different souls in different ways. The *Winters Springs, Summer Falls* CD is a poetic masterpiece. ■

Winter Springs Summer Falls. Image by Tom Kruse

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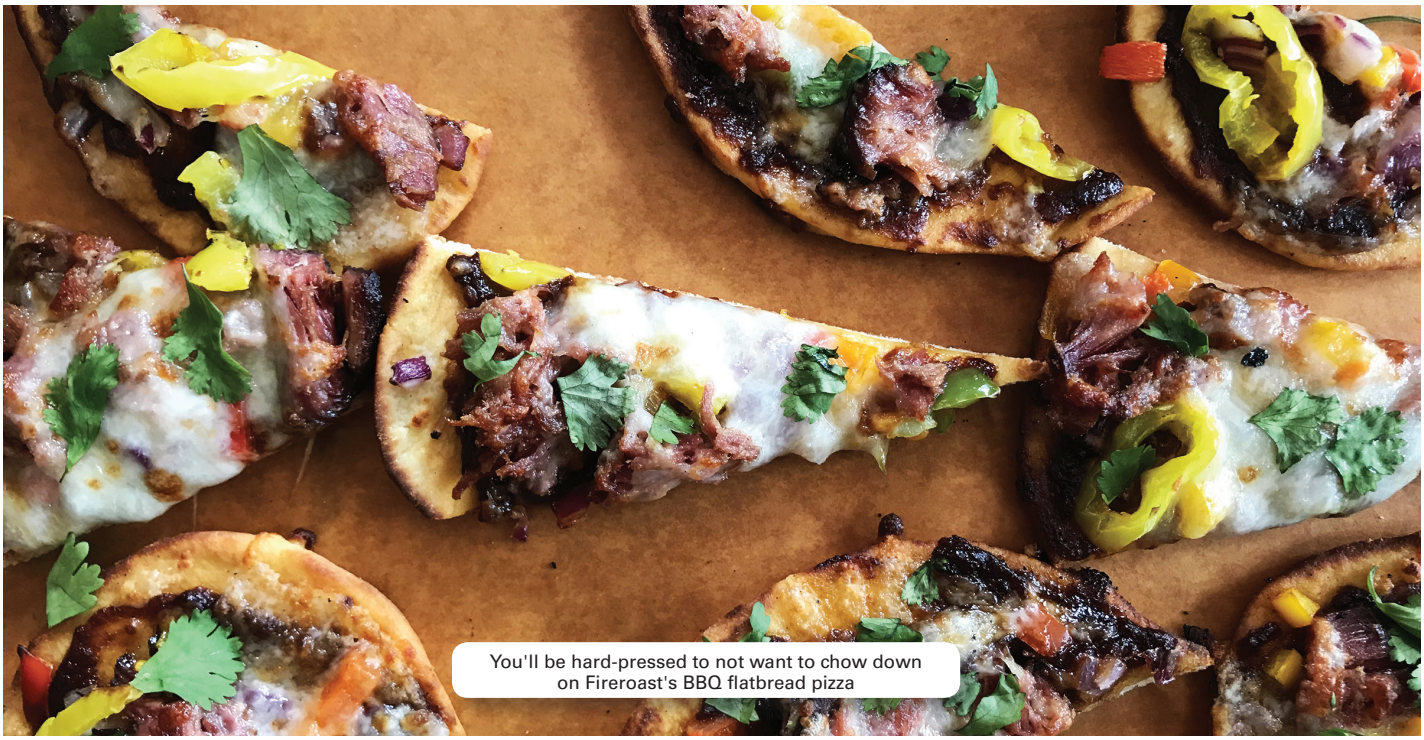
EAT THE MENU | BY BRADLEY TRAYNOR | PHOTOS BY MIKE HNIDA



You'll be hard-pressed to not want to chow down on Fireroast's BBQ flatbread pizza

Fireroast Cafe

If you live in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis, you're pretty lucky. There's a neighborhood cafe at the corner of 37th Avenue and 38th Street that wants to be friends. Bonus, they're willing to bribe you with great food and drink in return. Everyone needs a neighborhood hangout. A place to grab coffee on the way to work or a well-earned cocktail after a hard day.

Let's be honest, there are Saturday mornings you just want someone else to make breakfast. And Fireroast Cafe makes a wonderful breakfast.

Try to turn down this amazing Belgian Waffle. Just try it. We know we can't.

Fireroast's Seasonal Spinach Salad is a refreshing summer treat.

Satisfy your sweet tooth with Fireroast's delectable Espresso Brownie.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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Even if you don't live in the neighborhood, Fireroast is worth the trip, a fact I discovered myself a few weeks back with a couple friends. One relaxed Friday afternoon, we fell into comfy chairs, ready to nosh and tipple our way across their eclectic, relaxed menu. The casual atmosphere and friendly staff are as attractive as the menu offerings.

Fireroast bills itself as a coffee and wine bar, specializing in "direct-trade organic coffee, breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, all local beer and an approachable wine list." Translation: there's a little something for everyone and every mood.

Owner Jeff Fisher is keen to offer customers a warm, comfortable and inviting ambiance. As a GLBT business owner, he wants all of his customers to feel welcome, and at home.

From my first bite, I was impressed by Fireroast's unpretentiousness. The scratch-made sandwiches, salads and soups are straightforward and satisfying. Whether you just need a quick snack or something substantial, you've got options.

We started with the seasonal spinach salad. It was a vibrant tribute to the arrival of summer, topped with fresh sliced mango and goat cheese, dressed with a tart sherry vinaigrette.

Sandwiches and paninis are par for the course, but you'll not want to miss the flatbread at Fireroast. The crisp crust was topped with ample mounds of succulent pulled pork, blanketed by a hearty layer of melted cheese. It's an ideal appetizer, but paired with a salad, you've got the perfect lunch or early dinner.

If you're in a breakfast or brunch state of mind, try the breakfast sammy, full of eggs, cheese and veggies, along with your favorite protein. Whatever you order, make sure to add on a Belgian waffle. This giant crispy pillow of breakfast pastry goodness comes topped with a heaping helping of whipped cream and fresh berries or maple bacon.

When it comes to quenching your thirst, Fireroast offers an array of bevvy fun. I'm a big fan of simple, black coffee, and the standard cup of joe was dark, rich and full of flavor. They've partnered with local Up Coffee Roasters to ensure you're getting the highest quality from right in their own backyard. The espresso bar makes a wonderful macchiato and latte. Don't miss the cold press and tea selection as well.

Fireroast Cafe is located at the corner of 37th Avenue and 38th Street in South Minneapolis.

Over in cocktail town, the champagne cocktail was a particular table favorite.

If you're looking for a comfy place to curl up with a good book, cup of coffee and a muffin, maybe a quick stop for lunch in between errands, or you want to catch up with an old friend over cocktails, Fireroast Cafe' hopes you'll take them up on their hospitality. And take them up you should. You've earned it. ■

Fireroast Cafe
3800 37th Ave. S
Minneapolis
612-724-9895
www.fireroastcafe.com

Fireroast offers locally-roasted organic coffee, as well as baked goods made in-house.

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TRAVEL | BY CARLA WALDEMAR | PHOTOS BY CARLA WALDEMAR

A star of the Public Sculpture Walk in Eau Claire.

Oh! Claire

Ten years ago, there was no reason to pull off the highway as you barreled down I-94, heading for the bright lights of Madison or Milwaukee. Today, folks in the know from those Wisconsin cities are heading west to where the action is… and that's Eau Claire.

Oh, sure—back in the day, the city's graduates left town before the ink on their diplomas was yet dry, lured by the artsy vibe of Austin or Portland to secure their rep as hipsters. Today, the same folks are moving back to Eau Claire to ride the wave of its new-born creative spirit. It's catnip for artists of all flavors. And that's no accident.

"Today it's a disruptive town. 'Alternative' is positive," declares Greg Johnson, one of a triumvirate of visionary entrepreneurs who helped turn the downward spiral around. They eavesdropped on the plight of Mayo, which operates a clinic here, and Janf Software; both had trouble attracting smart new hires with nothing to do outside the cubicle but snooze.

Artisan Forge was the first wake-up call. Greg launched the collective in a former trucking facility in order to pull lonely, isolated artists together in collaborative studios. Today it's a petri dish of talent that has ramped up cultural attractions throughout the town. Classes are offered in everything from pottery to glassblowing. ("We discovered there were 40 glassblowers in town. Who knew?" reports artist Ed Dubick and wife Kendra, who relocated here.) Also popular is a Women in Welding class. The building includes a sales gallery, performance space (steampunk to torch-bearing dancers) and, soon, more in-demand studios and a coffeehouse.

Nick Meyer also signed on to make things happen. He publishes Volume One, the city's arts/entertainment paper, with offices above a store he fittingly named The Local, source of all things witty and Wisconsin. Recently, Nick converted a ho-hum hostelry into the snazzy Oxbow Hotel, a hipster's haven tricked out with art gallery, restaurant, and bar with live local jazz. Every guest room features a record player, with a cache of vinyl LPs.

That record collection was curated by the third man instrumental

Oxbow Hotel is Eau Claire's hipster central, with live music in the bar, and LPs and phonographs in the rooms.

in the turnaround, local musician Justin Vernon, frontman for Bon Iver. He's a major player in Eau Claire's six huge annual music festivals (including the largest jazz festival outside of New Orleans), with upwards of 20,000 in attendance. It doesn't hurt to have the UW-Eau Claire's strong music department in cahoots. (The school sports five jazz bands, a polka band and a harp choir. As they say, "Alternative is positive.") The U is collaborating with city, state and private funders to build a huge arts/performance center, called the Confluence, to open on the riverbank in October 2018.

Riverbanks? They're another of Eau Claire's lures. The union of the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers leads to 100 miles of popular biking/hiking trails. Conveniently, one licks the site of Brewing Projekt, a craft brewery offering flights of three for $4. (Take that, big cities!) Another

Artisan Forge Studios is a popular artist collective that features live band performances.

Artists at work in Artisan Forge Studios.

Biking and hiking trails hem the city's two rivers, Eau Claire and Chippewa.

brewery launched in 2010, called Lazy Monk, favors traditional-style lagers in a German-style setting.

"No TVs, no Muzak: This is a place for meeting friends," declares owner Teresa Frank.

The young maverick behind Infinity Beverages opened his own winery/distillery in 2010 at age (gulp!) 23 to produce "products you won't find anywhere else." Case in point: vodka made from sugar beets and apples.

Another young couple runs Autumn Harvest Winery, where apples share the glory with grapes. Pick your own Honeycrisps, put together a picnic (cheese and sausage available) and sit a while to listen to live music, invites the fledgling entrepreneur who took on the family business.

The valley's fabled bike trails spurred another wily youngster to launch Shift, a downtown bike shop cum coffeehouse. Nearby, Revival Records, stocking 25,000 LP albums "from ABBA to Zappa," represents the marriage of passion and vision of young Billy Siegel. Down the street, a couple of entrepreneurs figured out how to keep their Cinemas movie theater abreast of the times: remodel the interior with club seating for beer and pizza during shows (tickets $4, big spenders).

Shopping along that avenue is a big step above the usual tourist town's tired t-shirts and tacky coasters. Step into Tangled Up in Hue for another dose of local talent in the form of artisan-crafted antler jewelry, crocheted cacti, felted vases, bicycle-spoke bracelets and more. Approach nearby Antiques Emporium with a U-Haul, for if you collect it, they've got it (stuffed animals included). Janet Carson Gallery showcases a cleverly curated cache of creative artists. Back at the Local Store, you'll also find Wisconsin everything: Drink Wisconsinally bottle openers, road-map blankets, loon cookie cutters, plus CDs and books by local authors. Its neighbor, Red's Mercantile, introduced Eau Claire to stylish women's duds when owner Becca Cooke, who'd fled to California, returned to her invigorated home town.

The city's self-guided sculpture walk features 42 sidewalk creations to admire. Which calls for a cuppa, right? Rest your feet at ECDC (homemade pastries, too, including dangerously delicious macarons). It's housed in the forward Lismore Hotel, boasting a cool bar called Dive, atop the former rooftop swimming pool. Back on ground level stands the town's most imaginative kitchen, The Informalist, where espresso/chili-rubbed pork belly with pickled ramp pesto and a fried green tomato Benedict made my day (wood-fired pizzas, too).

Mona Lisa's is the source of well-executed Italian fare. Owner Lisa Aspenson did "local" before anyone else got the message, in dishes like pork tenderloin with fig chutney; gnocchi atop autumn veggies; wild mushroom ravioli; and all breeds of pizza. To satisfy a burger craving, steer to Classic Garage. You'll spot it by the pink Cadillac owner Rick Payton parks by the pumps and his baby-blue Caddie just inside—sexy advertisements for his Fifties menu, served on Formica tabletops. Rick is one of those Austin émigrés who settled in Eau Claire, as did several of his acquaintances when he spread the word.

"People are kind and respectful here," he notes. "Coming from Texas, it was kind of unsettling."

Unsettling, you betcha. Alternative, too. And as exuberantly disruptive as those famous capitols of cool. To stoke your inner rebel, consult www.visiteauclaire.com and head on over. ■

EVENTS

Blue Ox Music Festival June 14-16 (blues and string bands)
Eaux Claires Music and Art Festival July 6-7 (arranged by Bon Iver's Justin Vernon)

2018 Pride Weekend What to Do

| BY KASSIDY TARALA |

The biggest weekend of the year is upon us, and here is a list of events throughout the Twin Cities that will give you endless ways to show your Pride.

Fellow Travelers. Photo courtesy of Minnesota Opera

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

LAVENDER'S PRIDE SCORE THURSDAY

LUSH
990 Central Ave. NE
Minneapolis
5:30-8 p.m.
Free
lavendermedia.eventbrite.com

Join GLBT and GLBT-friendly athletes and sports fans as we celebrate the sports scene and Pride. Complimentary appetizers, drink specials, prize drawings, giveaways and silent auction. Visit sports representatives from local professional sports teams and GLBT leagues.

FELLOW TRAVELERS PRESENTED BY THE MINNESOTA OPERA

Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts
528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
June 21, 23
7:30 p.m.
Tickets $29-104
www.mnopera.org

A love affair develops between two men in 1950s Washington, DC, when a recent college graduate meets a handsome State Department official. However, during the McCarthy-era Lavender Scare, communists weren't the only enemies.

OPEN STAGE + JASMINE MASTERS—PRIDE WEEK HOSTED BY FLIP PHONE

Honey
205 E Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
8:30-10 p.m.
$18
www.facebook.com/FlipPhone

Get your JUSH. Join Jasmine Masters and other talented performers for a night of pre-Pride drag. No competition. Just 100 percent fun. All guests, including performers, requires a ticket.

LEMONADE PRIDE KICK-OFF PARTY

Union Rooftop
731 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
21+
9:30 p.m.
$15 door only
www.facebook.com/boobytrap.mpls

Here comes year two of Lemonade's quarterly queer women's event. Kick off Pride weekend and head to the roof at Union to dance under the stars!

PRIDE ON THE ST. CROIX PADDLE

Interstate Park Boat Landing
307 Milltown Rd., Taylors Falls
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Costs for shuttle and kayak/canoe rentals, if needed: $10-$45
www.stcroixriverassociation.org

Want to celebrate Pride and get a good workout in the process? Take a trip down the lower St. Croix River! Scope out some amazing natural sights as you head towards Osceola Landing near Osceola, Wisconsin. Partake in a picnic and other fun activities before being shuttled back. Pre-registration is required.

BIG FREEDIA

Pourhouse
10 S 5th St., Minneapolis
7 p.m.-1 a.m.
$30/General Admission, $60/VIP, $100/Exclusive VIP
www.vitalculture.com

Bounce into Pride with Big Freedia the Queen Diva with Bro Jules hosted by QWEEN J Jamecia Bennett. General admission is entry only; VIP tickets offer entry and upstairs VIP area access; and Exclusive VIP is entry, upstairs VIP area access, meet and greet, and appetizers.

TWIN CITIES JAZZ FESTIVAL

Mears Park
221 E 5th St., St. Paul, MN
June 21–23
Free
www.twincitiesjazzfestival.com

The Twin Cities Jazz Festival is a three-day music festival with headline acts on multiple public stages in and around Mears Park, plus performances at local clubs, bars and studio venues. Recognized as one of the region's premiere music festivals, Jazz Fest brings top artists to Saint Paul to share the joy of jazz with thousands of people.

PRIDE WEEKEND AT LUSH

LUSH
990 Central Ave. NE
Minneapolis
June 21-24
Prices vary
www.lushmpls.com

Northeast Minneapolis' Pride Headquarters will be none other than LUSH, which is hosting a plethora of Pride Weekend events, ranging from *RuPaul's Drag Race* viewing party, a #DragEvolution contest and show, a Pride Block Party, a Transcendence show, a Pride Bottomless Mimosa Brunch, Drag Queen Bingo, the Sashay Away Reunion Show, and a mammoth Pride Sunday celebration.

PRIDE WEEKEND AT THE 19 BAR

19 Bar
19 W 15th St., Minneapolis
June 21–24
www.facebook.com/The19Bar

Party with the 19 Bar Pride weekend! Located only two blocks from Loring Park, the lack of a cover charge makes it a great place to celebrate! Pride Weekend at the Gay 90's

PRIDE WEEKEND AT GAY 90'S

408 Hennepin Ave. S
Minneapolis
June 21–24
18+
www.gay90s.com

If you're looking for nonstop events this Pride Weekend, the Gay 90's will surely deliver. With a Miss City of the Lakes competition on Thursday, *RuPaul Drag Race's* Alexis Michelle and a foam party on Friday, Pride Brunch and Cee Cee Russell on Sunday, and Ladies of Lafemme and Jaida Essence-Hall all weekend long, Pride Weekend at Gay 90's will be nothing if not thrilling.

PRIDE WEEKEND AT THE TOWN HOUSE

Town House Bar
1415 University Ave. W, St. Paul
June 21–24
www.townhousebar.com

The Town House has a great weekend planned, all beginning with a RuPaul's Viewing Party, of course! Also, don't miss out on the Aliveness Project Bingo, YOLO, and karaoke on Friday, Dotti West's Pride Show and Lori Dokken on Saturday, and a Sunday Funday pool tournament on Sunday.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

GROWN & SEXY PRIDE VIII

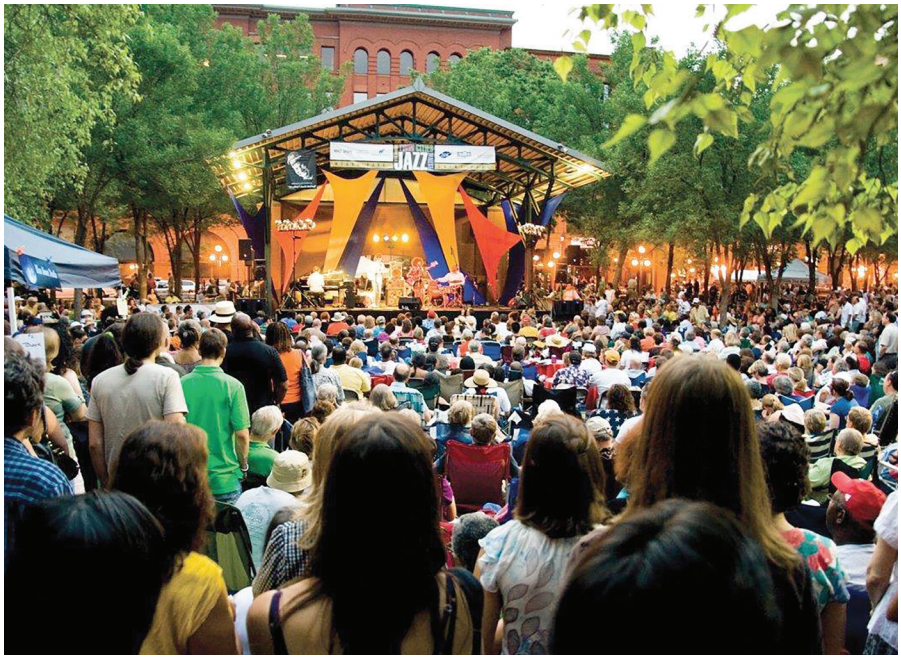
First Avenue & 7th St. Entry
701 N 1st Ave., Minneapolis
9 p.m.-2 a.m.
$15
www.first-avenue.com

If you don't get a chance to see DJ Shannon Blowtorch at LUSH, no worries! First Avenue has you covered. Join DJ Shannon Blowtorch and Sweetpea (and many more performers, including your host Adonia) at the First Avenue Mainroom for Pride Weekend. It will be an all-night dance party with dynamic onstage performances that will keep you on your feet until morning.

QUEERLY BELOVED- A SOBER DANCE PARTY

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
519 Oak Grove St., Minneapolis
8:30-10 p.m.
18+
$5-10
www.facebook.com/SaintMarksEpiscopalCathedral

Want to celebrate Pride in a sober environment? St. Mark's will be hosting a GLBT-friendly dance party on its open-air lot. A suggested cover charge of $5-10 will go towards assisting homeless GLBT youth in the Twin Cities.



Twin Cities Jazz Festival. Photo by Chris McDuffie

BOOBYTRAP PRESENTS CATCH: PRIDE 2018

Varsity Theater
1308 4th St. SE, Minneapolis
9 p.m.
21+
$16-27
www.facebook.com/boobytrap.mpls

Get groovy and fabulous with Boobytrap's Catch Pride dance night at Varsity Theater! Break it down with performances by Sada Bettencourt, D Baz and D Mil.

BOSS PRIDE

Loring Restaurant and Bar
3271 4th Ave. SE, Minneapolis
9 p.m.-2 a.m.
21+
$14 General Admission/$25 VIP
www.bossqueerlounge.com

A Pride event for 30+ queer folx and friends. Get ready for an entertainment-filled evening featuring burlesque, drag, custom photo booth, musical performances by ZINA, SXSW favorite Holidae, and more!

Jasmine Masters. Photo courtesy of Flip Phone

Pride Parade Rooftop Drag Brunch + Viewing Party. Photo by Stephen James Photography

MIDWEST FIREFIGHTERS CALENDAR LAUNCH PARTY

StevenBe
3448 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Free
www.stevenbe.com

StevenBe and Twin Cities firefighters are coming together to support Twin Cities Firefighters Operation Warm. The mission of Twin Cities Firefighters Operation Warm is to provide brand new, American-made winter coats to local children in need.

PRIDE COMEDY SHOW

Sisyphus Brewery
712 Ontario St. W, Minneapolis
7-9 p.m.
$18
pridecomedy.bpt.me

This is a stand up comedy show to celebrate GLBT Pride. Hosted by Maggie Faris, with performances by Jakey Emmert, Sarah McPeck, Wendy Berkowitz, Madi Tentinger, Jacob Randall, and Jan Syverson.

FRENCH TWIST

Park Square Theatre, Andy Boss Thrust Stage
20 W 7th Pl., St. Paul
June 22-24
$27-60
www.parksquaretheatre.org

The vibrant and bold Flying Foot Forum presents an inspiring evening of dance, theatre and percussion set in a Paris sidewalk café.

PRIDE WEEKEND AT EAGLEBOLTBAR

eagleBOLTbar
515 Washington Ave. Minneapolis
June 22–24
www.eagleboltbar.com

Party in the covered parking lot of eagleBOLTbar all weekend long with events like Happy Hour, Bear Night, Scorch Fireball, and show tunes.

PRIDE WEEKEND AT THE SALOON

The Saloon
830 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
June 22–24
$25 in advance/$30 at the door; 3-day weekend pass/$60
www.saloonmn.com

The party is going on all weekend, so come over to the Saloon for a Block Party you won't forget with performances by DJ Naughty Boy, International Reggae All-Stars, and Todrick Hall on Friday; DJ Shiek, McNasty Brass Band, Emily Perry, Androgyny and the Dancers, and DJ Luis Perez on Saturday; and DJ Shiek, Pop Rocks, Betty Who, and DJ Luis Perez on Sunday night. The Saloon is really bringing their all to this year's Pride Weekend.

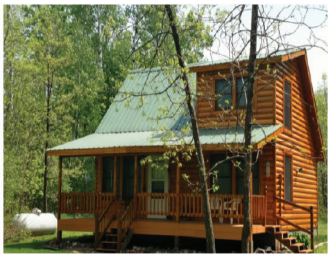
SATURDAY, JUNE 23

TWIN CITIES PRIDE FESTIVAL

Loring Park
1382 Willow St., Minneapolis
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
June 23-24
www.tcpride.org
Free

It's the moment we've all been waiting for. Loring Park shows its colors yet again for the 2018 Twin Cities Pride Festival. Food, drinks, entertainment, and, of course, pride galore! Bring your friends, family for the booths, concerts, art show, rainbow run, and more.

WEEKEND GETAWAY



This beautiful year round home/cabin built in 2000 is finished with tongue and groove pine and has that up north feeling. This home features a gas fireplace, full bath w/laundry, a kitchen and riverside dining area. Upstairs is the master bdrm with a gorgeous river view, an loft/bdrm. Outside is a 8 X 26 porch, 5 acres, and the yard leads down to 240' of Kettle River frontage.

Listing #1993 $174,900.00

Check out more weekend getaways Located only 1.5 Hours from Minneapolis/ St.Paul at www.majesticpine.com

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PULL FOR PRIDE MINNEAPOLIS

The Movement Minneapolis
2100 Lyndale Ave., Ste. B
Minneapolis
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
pullforpride.com/minneapolis

50 lifter-fundraisers will take turns deadlifting progressively higher weights, aiming to match dollar for pound to help lift up often-unnoticed homeless youth. In true Pride fashion, this deadlift-only meet is completely inclusive of all people and strength/skill levels. Unlike traditional meets, Pull for Pride is non-gender-specific (open to trans and cis, intersex, agender, non-binary, women, and men) and prescribes no dress code or weight class. All proceeds from Pull for Pride Minneapolis will benefit Avenues for Homeless Youth. This fun and festive event will include a DJ, food trucks, raffle giveaways and informational and sponsor booths.

WHITNEY HOUSTON + DIANA ROSS PRIDE DRAG BRUNCH — HOSTED BY UNION ROOFTOP AND FLIP PHONE

Union Rooftop
731 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
$11
www.facebook.com/FlipPhone

Celebrate Pride Weekend by honoring two of the biggest divas of all time, Whitney Houston and Diana Ross. Performances by Cee Cee Russell, Domita Sanchez. Hosted by Sasha Cassadine.

PRIDE IN CONCERT 2018 LORING PARK

1382 Willow St., Minneapolis
6-10 p.m.
General Admission tickets $25, VIP $99
www.tcpride.org

Join Jamecia Bennett, Jujubee, The Vigilantease Collective, and—wait for it—Brandy for the PRIDE In Concert 2018 event. Hosted in Loring Park, this concert is perfect for the music lover attendees of Pride Festival.

GRRRL SCOUT PRESENTS SUMMER CAMP 2018: MERIT BADGE

The Cabooze
913 Cedar Ave. S, Minneapolis
9 p.m.-2 a.m.
21+
$15
www.grrrlscout.com

Featuring live screen printing with Ritual Print Co. and Sparkle Station with Fox Den Salon. Also, there's a Dress to Impress Challenge with Smitten Kitten, Patio Play—Outdoor Games and Contests, performances by Symone Smash It, Redbone, Troop 612, Scarlette Revolver, and more!

THE WOMAN'S CLUB PRIDE DANCE

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis
410 Oak Grove St., Minneapolis
8 p.m.
$15-30
www.womansclub.org

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis will be hosting its annual Pride Dance. View fireworks from the fabulous rooftop overlooking Loring Park. Everyone is welcome.

FLIP PHONE XXL: PRIDE

First Avenue & 7th St. Entry
701 N 1st Ave., Minneapolis
9 p.m.-2 a.m.
$15-30
www.facebook.com/FlipPhone

Starring Monet X Change, Flip Phone's XXL Pride dance party features Cee Cee Russell, Domita DeBaun Sanchez, Julia Starr, and host Tygra Trinity Slarii. Featuring the music of Britney Spears, Beyonce, Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Whitney Houston, Kesha, Nicki Minaj, Dua Lipa, Madonna, Spice Girls, Taylor Swift, Janelle Monae, and more. Music by Flip Phone's DJ Fancy Restaurant.

CAFÉ & BAR LURCAT PRIDE CELEBRATION

Café & Bar Lurcat
1624 Harmon Ave., Minneapolis
June 23-24
Free
www.lurcatminneapolis.com

Café & Bar Lurcat will be hosting another two-day celebration with DJs, food and cocktails galore on Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, June 24. Located at the conclusion of the Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade, Lurcat's festivities will include a Saturday MiX Pride Edition dance night featuring performances by DJ Shiek and DJ Lenka Paris, and a 21+ Sunday Pride Disco party: bell bottoms encouraged!

Big Freedia. Image by Rich Delcastillo

WRIGHT'S LAKE PARK MURAL — PAINTING PARTY AND NEW PLAYGROUND CELEBRATION

Wright's Lake Park
8501 17th Ave. S, Bloomington
5-8 p.m.
Free
www.blm.mn/placemaking

Come help paint the Wright's Lake Park Community Mural! The mural will be painted onto large sheets of canvas, which GoodSpace Murals will later adhere to a large wall across the street from Wright's Lake Park. Smocks and t-shirts will be provided, as well as free chalk for sidewalk art and popsicles or snacks at some events. All ages welcome!

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

RAINBOW RUN 5K

Boom Island Park
724 Sibley St. NE, Minneapolis
9:30 a.m.
Registration required
www.tcpride.org

Now in its seventh year, the Rainbow Run is a 5K that supports the annual Pride celebration. The run starts at Boom Island and the last mile is the Parade Route, where those gathering for the parade cheer you on. All runners (ages 21+) get a free beer at the Twin Cities Pride Festival Beer Garden after the run!

ASHLEY RUKES GLBT PRIDE PARADE

Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
11 a.m.
www.tcpride.org

Free—all are welcome! Parade route is Hennepin Avenue from North 3rd Street to 16th Street.

PRIDE PARADE ROOFTOP DRAG BRUNCH + VIEWING PARTY

Union Rooftop
731 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m.-7 p.m
$15
21+
www.facebook.com/FlipPhone

Get ready for parade viewing, cocktails, and drag at Union Rooftop, with a drag show featuring Sasha R. Cassadine, Lila Vera, Lala Love-Iman, and Anya DeGrant.

PRIDE IN THE SKY: ROOFTOP PARADE VIEWING AND DANCE PARTY

CRAVE American Kitchen & Sushi Bar
825 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m.-6 p.m.
$14.72
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Bearracuda. Photo by Dusti Cunningham

Café & Bar Lurcat Pride Celebration. Photo by Timothy Baer Photography

BEARRACUDA MINNEAPOLIS ROOFTOP PARADE PRIDE

Mercy
901 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
$12
www.facebook.com/bearracuda

Calling all bears! Bearracuda returns to Minneapolis for a rooftop Pride spectacular at Mercy. Join DJ Larry Peace for a gay old time on the rooftop!

NO BOYS IN THE BOOTH – PRIDE BRUNCH & DAY PARTY CELEBRATION

Seven Steakhouse Sushi & Rooftop
700 Hennepin Ave. S
Minneapolis
9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Tickets $20/advance, $25/door
pridesevenmpls.eventbrite.com

The ladies take over Pride at Seven Steakhouse! Dance to some of Minneapolis' best female DJs, such as Lenka Paris, Lucy Luxe, TeeSo, Sax Sells, and Sheik. There's limited rooftop seating, so get tickets soon!

PRIDE SPORTS IN THE SUMMER

PRIDE NIGHT AT MINNESOTA UNITED

Minnesota United FC vs. FC Dallas
TCF Bank Stadium
420 SE 23rd Ave., Minneapolis
June 29
7 p.m.
www.mnufc.com

Join Minnesota United FC for Pride Night as they take on FC Dallas for a great night of soccer! Pride Night at Target Field

TWINS VS. KANSAS CITY ROYALS

Target Field
1 Twins Way, Minneapolis
July 9
7:10 p.m.
$22-85
www.mlb.com/twins

Cheer on the Twins and celebrate GLBT Pride as our boys take on the Royals on July 9. A portion of each ticket will go towards the food shelf nonprofit One Heartland. The Twins will also be partnering with Gay For Good, which aims to mobilize the GLBT community to interact with the larger community via volunteering. ■

PRIDE

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MONDAY, JULY 9

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A Most Colorful Classroom

| BY KASSIDY TARALA |

Minnesota's 2018 Teacher of the Year Kelly Holstine shares her passion for teaching and life lessons from the GLBT community.

A Minnesota native herself, Kelly Holstine grew up in Fairmont before departing for Massachusetts where she received her undergraduate degree in communications. Deciding that there's truly no place like home, Holstine returned to the Land of 10,000 Lakes to get her teaching license and Master of Arts in education from Augsburg University in 2007.

Now an English teacher at Tokata Learning Center in Shakopee, Holstine follows her passion at a school that she helped create.

"I was given the opportunity to open an Area Learning Center (ALC) from the ground up. I got to help create policies and the culture. I was also the only English teacher for the first several years of the program and created an entire 9-12 high school English curriculum. These are once in a lifetime opportunities," Holstine says.

"Tokata Learning Center is dynamic and powerful. The students and staff are creative and extraordinary. It is an honor to work here."

As a member of the GLBT community, Holstine says she hasn't always received support from fellow teachers in previous schools, which makes working for Tokata Learning Center all the more valuable.

"The current staff and administration at Tokata Learning Center are extremely supportive of my sexual orientation and the fact that I am non-gender conforming. I have not always had this type of support and have faced a great deal of homophobia in some of the previous schools that I taught," she says.

Holstine was nominated for Minnesota's 2018 Teacher of the Year by Annie Rients, the professional learning coordinator for Shakopee Public

Kelly Holstine became the first GLBT educator to be named Minnesota's Teacher of the Year in 2018. Photo by Education Minnesota

Kelly Holstine is an English teacher at Shakopee's Tokata Learning Cente. Photo courtesy of Kelly Holstine

Kelly Holstine, right, received her Master of Arts degree from Augsburg University in 2007. Photo courtesy of Kelly Holstine

Schools, and Eric Serbus, principal of Tokata Learning Center.

"I am not still not quite sure how to process all of this. It is such a humbling honor to represent over 86,000 teachers in Minnesota. And the other 11 finalists were extraordinary. I feel so lucky that I get to spend time with and learn from both them and the previous Minnesota Teachers of the Year," Holstine says. "I am also excited to represent Minnesota in the National Teacher of the Year program."

Representing this year's Teacher of the Year for Minnesota, Holstine says it's important that more diversity is represented in schools, whether that's in the classroom, on the playground or in the Teacher of the Year program.

"As with all minorities, the more types of people represented in schools, the better it is for students. Not only is it important for students to see themselves in the curriculum, but it is also essential for them to have role models in the schools. And the more diversity students are exposed to, the better their lives will be," she says.

Though Holstine says she never intended to become a teacher and, rather, dreamed of becoming a veterinarian, police officer, or psychologist, she has undoubtedly found her calling in the classroom.

"I started my career in the fields of social work, media, and team building. I then discovered that teachers are not only educators, they are also psychologists, team builders, social activists, and social workers. I have been a teacher for over ten years and I can confidently declare that teaching is the best way for me to support students and help them prepare for their futures," she says.

Holstine says she encourages her students to celebrate themselves, their diversity, and their own unique creativity in a strong community setting.

"I have worked diligently to create a safe and community-focused environment in my classroom. Students have voice and choice as they work through supported, self-paced courses that I developed on Canvas," she says. "They are given formative and summative assessments to learn how to capably analyze the overwhelming world of mass media; to build their acquisition of critical thinking, analytical, and problem solving skills; to raise their awareness of diversity and social realities via engaging literature; and to improve their writing through self-reflection, connections, creativity, and the power of semantics."

Kelly Holstine, right, shown with her wife Emma Freeman, left. Photo by Emma Freeman

As she continues to lead her classes by demonstrating—and encouraging—individuality, strength, and diversity, Holstine is proving why she deserved to be Minnesota's 2018 Teacher of the Year.

While Tokata Learning Center grows and flourishes because of Holstine, she says she still has a lot of growing to do, too, both as a teacher and a person.

"I have been able to assist in the creation of a safe, consistent, compassionate, restorative, enriching, accepting, culturally diverse, rigorous, and community building environment while continuing to reflect, grow, and evolve both as a teacher and as a human," Holstine says. ■

Communica

| BY KASSIDY TARALA |

Advocate and teacher Jessalyn Akerman-Frank shares insight into why the deaf queer community is frequently forgotten.

Communication is how we connect with others in the community. Whether we're discussing similar interests, asking for directions, or running through basic introductions, communication is what makes humans human. However, people who communicate in a different way than what is most common can be left out of the crowds and feel isolated and forgotten. According to Jessalyn Akerman-Frank, a lack of communication is a huge reason why the deaf queer community can often be separated from the GLBT community.

As a deaf lesbian, Akerman-Frank has been trying to find common ground between the deaf community and the GLBT community since she first began her education.

"I am a graduate of Gallaudet University with a B.A. in communications, and I am a graduate from the University of Minnesota with a Masters in special education, with a focus in deaf and hard of hearing. I also studied LGBTQI under Beth Zemsky and all the courses offered in the LGBTQ minor," Akerman-Frank says. "I am a graduate of the Deaf Life Coach program under Cross Road Solutions Life Coaching, the RYT 200 Yoga program that was offered at Saint Paul College, and the Trauma Informed Yoga program that was offered by Firefly Yoga. I am the only deaf yoga teacher in Minnesota, and I'm a recent graduate of the Partners in Policymaking, which is a nine-month program."

With all of that under her belt,

Jessalyn Akerman-Frank, right, is married to her wife Lys, left, and has two teenage sons. Photo courtesy of Jessalyn Akerman-Frank

ution is Key

Akerman-Frank serves as a head of Deaf Equity, which is dedicated to advancing equity for all deaf Minnesotans. Photo courtesy of Jessalyn Akerman-Frank

it's no wonder that she's taken naturally to a role as an advocate and teacher.

"I noticed that there were no programs, services, or resources that were accessible or specific to the deaf queer community. This is why I founded the Annual Awards program with a committee that still exists today. I have been a part of Twin Cities Pride as a volunteer to coordinate ASL Interpreters for Pride weekend for over 15-plus years, and I am an active member of the deaf and hearing queer community. I have been involved in showing up for the Vote No campaign and actively hosting a 'Vote No' gathering to educate within my community," she says.

In addition to being a deaf yoga teacher and advocate of the deaf queer community, Akerman-Frank is also a trained Deaf Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate, which has allowed her to work with people of the deaf community, survivors in shelters, and those in the legal system.

"I am currently the director of civic and community engagement with the Commission for Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans. It is a great job that affords me many opportunities to engage in the community, build the community, and advocate with the community," she says. "In my spare time, I devote my time to the community as the vice president of Deaf Equity working towards cementing new programs that fulfill service gaps, and volunteering with Twin Cities Pride, Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens and within the community."

Though Akerman-Frank clearly likes being busy, she still has time for her family, including her wife Lys, teenage sons Sam and Ben, and her fur babies Zula Bear and Mabel.

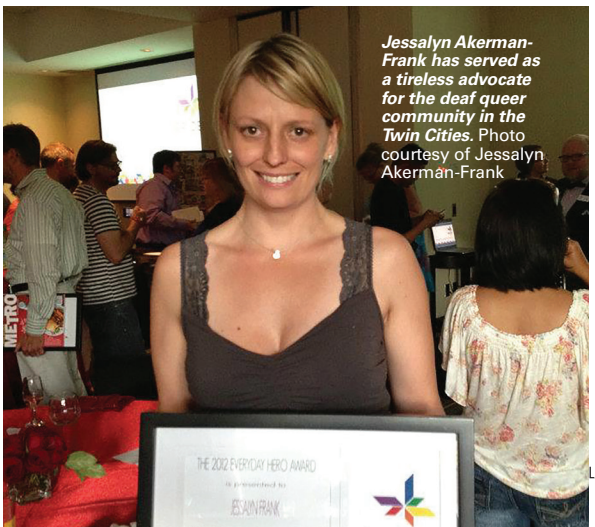
Akerman-Frank says that deaf members of the GLBT community face unique challenges, especially when it comes to communication. Because many services and resources in the GLBT community are not accommodating to American Sign Language (ASL), deaf queer folks have a difficult time communicating with other members of the GLBT community.

"If you take a look at the resource guide, you see so many amazing services, organizations, and opportunities. I want this for our deaf LGBTQ+ community. Since duplication would take work, and since our deaf LGBTQ+ community is small in comparison, it is a challenge to get funding to provide these opportunities through a deaf-specific and culturally linguistic-appropriate program. This is why we need to partner with hearing agencies," Akerman-Frank says. "Communication access is SO IMPORTANT to my community as it is to the mainstreamed community. Fighting for this should not have to happen."

Akerman-Frank says she's continuing her work in the community by educating hearing services, organizations, and community groups on how to provide accessible services to include the deaf GLBT community. She serves as a head of Deaf Equity, an advocacy dedicated to advancing equity and access for all deaf and hard-of-hearing Minnesotans.

"It is my hope that I can influence positive changes within our larger queer community. I hope that I can inspire others by telling my story and sharing my passion. I hope I can find other community builders willing to help me build bridges that are inclusive of ALL communities," she says.

For more information on Deaf Equity, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/deafequity. For more information on the Deaf LGBTQI Annual Awards, visit www.facebook.com/DeafLGBTQIA.■



Jessalyn Akerman-Frank has served as a tireless advocate for the deaf queer community in the Twin Cities. Photo courtesy of Jessalyn Akerman-Frank

Finding Homes for Heroes

| BY KASSIDY TARALA |

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) serves veterans and their families struggling with homelessness.

For over 25 years, local veterans and their families have been receiving assistance for finding homes across the state of Minnesota from the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV). A nonprofit organization, MACV gives back to those who have given our country so much by providing jobs, assisting with job placement, and offering legal services.

"We accomplish our mission by providing these services directly and in collaboration with community partners. In 2017, over 5,000 veterans received services from MACV," says MACV operations manager David Nguyen.

With a mission of ending veteran homelessness in Minnesota, MACV is definitely on the track to achieving this success. By assisting veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, MACV has helped veterans overcome barriers to obtaining and retaining housing, including GLBT veterans.

"With this focus, we have had many success stories ranging from an LGBT veteran who obtained housing through our Keys for Heroes program and employment services while getting other supportive services in partnership with the Alive-

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans has been reaching out to assist gay veterans dealing with homelessness and financial issues. Photo courtesy of David Nguyen

ness Project," Nguyen says. "Another LGBT woman veteran is moving into her own apartment after avoiding the shelters due to her fear of discrimination as an out person."

Though MACV assists all veterans regardless of circumstances, Nguyen said he's uncertain of the number of GLBT veterans they have assisted as many do not feel comfortable disclosing this information to people.

"Although the military culture has more recently embraced its LGBT members, for some older vets there is still a lingering memory of discrimination, and it informs their decision when deciding who to come out to. Also, many veteran-specific transitional housing opportunities are for men or women and not all of our LGBTQ veterans in need of temporary housing feel entirely comfortable in a communal living scenario in either category, even though they will be eligible," he says.

Stories from GLBT veterans have historically pointed to what is referred to as the

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

MACV

Ending Veteran Homelessness in Minnesota

MACV has been providing job placement and legal services to veterans for over 25 years. Image courtesy of MACV

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" era of the United States military, which is when many veterans enlisted. "It has been explained by one LQBTQ veteran we will call 'D': 'When you need a place to live, anywhere is better than nowhere, but if I had a choice I would move into LGBTQ veteran housing.' D also explained that she would choose LQBTQ VA support groups around recovery if it was offered. D enlisted during the Don't Ask Don't Tell era," Nguyen says. "She remembers being physically punished by the sergeant after cutting her hair shorter than regulation allowed for women. 'Even though the rules have changed I still feel like some people, like my sergeant, are still in the military. I have learned not to let it bother me but I also don't want to be denied benefits or something because of it. Sometimes I still feel like that could still happen.'" The military's past unwillingness to accept GLBT community members has lingering effects today for many veterans looking for housing. Like D, many veterans are turned away from opportunities because people continue with the same mindset as in the past. Others feel hesitant to even apply for housing that's specifically for veterans because they might not feel comfortable identifying themselves as GLBT while also living among other veterans. With the help of MACV, more veterans are being placed in housing, employment, and necessary legal services to hopefully stop this pattern for GLBT veterans.

"Recently, we attended the Aliveness Project planning sessions. They are considering the start of their own homeless registry much like the one used for veterans. MDVA (Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs) was there, so were we, and we discussed how to better partner to identify our LGBTQ vets and make sure they receive all the services they need. This year MACV will have a booth at Pride. Maybe next year we will be in the parade," Nguyen says.

As MACV continues to help thousands of veterans across the state of Minnesota, the organization is getting more and more involved in the GLBT community, which will hopefully spark a greater number of GLBT veterans to seek out assistance from MACV.

With the help of MACV, Minnesota veterans are escaping homelessness, unemployment, and legal issues that unfortunately continue to plague the heroic community to this day. With MACV's mission in mind, we will continue to strive for a day when veterans no longer face these types of problems. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about MACV and the services they provide, visit their website at www.mac-v.org or call at 833-222-6228. ■

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RIDE REVIEW | BY RANDY STERN | PHOTOS BY RANDY STERN

Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio

Do you remember what Alfa Romeo used to be?

90 years ago, they ruled the auto racing world. These red machines sent the finest drivers of the 1920s and 1930s into many championships. An Alfa Romeo stood for motorsports excellence at its finest hour.

That reputation continued through the turmoil of World War II and the struggle to rebuild after the conflict was over. Alfa Romeo emerged gloriously with iconic cars for the ages. The Spider gave two occupants a ride through the sunny days—not to mention a starring spot in *The Graduate* with Dustin Hoffman behind the wheel. The GTV was a beautifully designed 2+2 coupe that commanded the road ahead wherever it went.

As time marked change, Alfa Romeo was a fading star in America. Its last products never captured the essence of the past. By the mid-1990s, the Milanese automaker was gone from our shores. Only the few who appreciate the beauty of an Alfa Romeo kept some of its finest running since then.

Now, Alfa Romeo is back. Not just with a one-off car, but with a lineup of three vehicles, all thanks to the moves made by Sergio Marchionne and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles to return Alfa Romeo to the mantle of automotive lore.

The 4C was a special vehicle, a two-seat coupe and roadster that offered a visceral experience for the enthusiast. To play in today's premium automotive sandbox, you must present a vehicle that will compete—and pulverize—the popular (read: German) offerings out there.

The competition piece arrived in the Giulia sports sedan. Just like its predecessors, it is distinctly beautiful. It is made with a balanced platform and superb power. It was indeed a modern Alfa Romeo for today's discriminating premium car buyer. In fact, it earned this year's *Motor Trend* Car of The Year.

To pulverize the competition, you must come up with something more special. Something with serious firepower.

Enter Ferrari. They just happen to be part of the Fiat side of the FCA family—though some may just say they're distant cousins removed via Marchionne. Ferrari developed a V6 engine to put under the hood of the Giulia to provide serious firepower. To do so, they added two turbochargers. The result is a 505-horsepower sedan that has become the object and many enthusiasts' desire.

What we got was the Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio.

In Italian, Quadrifoglio (pronounced: *quaw-drih-fo-lio*) is a four-leaf clover. It is a lucky symbol. In fact, the same four-leaf clover appeared on many of Alfa Romeo's champion cars since the 1920s. Today, the lucky clover means that something wicked lies underneath its hood.

That engine is a Ferrari-developed 2.9-liter V6 with two turbochargers. As we stated earlier, this puts out 505 horsepower. This is a monster, plain and simple. You can probably imagine how quick this car can be and how well it will run beyond posted speed limits—not that we encourage such behavior. In all, it is a magnificent motor.

To get an idea why this Giulia Quadrifoglio is such a big deal, Alfa Romeo ran a couple of tests to prove it as such. They ran a 0-60 MPH sprint in just 3.8 seconds. They also ran the Giulia Quadrifoglio at the Nürburgring, the famed German motorsports venue along its Nordschleife course, in a time of 7 minutes, 32 seconds. This is a record for a four-door sports sedan at the time.

An eight-speed automatic developed by ZF throws this wall of power to its rear wheels. We have a proper sports sedan with a perfectly balanced 50/50 weight distribution. This latter fact is felt when we drove it as it delivered on superb handling, sharp and exact steering, and commanding brakes.

The handling is what you would expect from a sports sedan. It delivers on every turn and corner with near-flat response. To achieve this, you must set the Giulia Quadrifoglio into Dynamic mode from its D-N-A knob on the console. Dynamic mode also firms up the suspension for a tighter ride. It is not for one who wants a comfortable ride. You can achieve a relatively comfortable ride by switching the knob to either Natural or All-Weather mode.

Sticking with Dynamic mode, the weight of the steering system is heavier for better control of the wheel. The system still works in other modes, but the weight will be lighter at the wheel. The D-N-A system does not affect brakes, which is a very good thing. Our tester came with extremely large Brembo carbon ceramic discs on all four wheels. We wished for a more direct feel through the brake-by-wire system and some of its components to feel the power of the large red calipers and huge rotors to see how much stopping power they truly offer. Yet, we were impressed with how they worked in normal and panic situations.

One mode we did not test out in the D-N-A system was Race mode. It is because we never took it to a track to find out hardcore Race mode would be. We can only imagine… and dream…

One thing you might be curious about is fuel economy. Our Giulia Quadrifoglio did return an average of 20.3 MPG in our care.

Though the focus of the Giulia Quadrifoglio is its driving experi-

ence, there is plenty more to talk about. For example, its stylish exterior. There are a lot of classic shapes that embody the Giulia, from its historic triangle grille to its curves all the way to the modern rear end. On the fenders are two badges that are from the past—the Quadrifoglio itself. The doors may seem small, but they fit within its historical quirks of what an Alfa Romeo embodies.

Within this classic shape are modern touches. Select the Quadrifoglio, and there will be more carbon fiber to look at—and feel. Because of the extensive use of carbon fiber, the car is very light. You can feel it wherever it is present, including the lightweight hood and the active front splitter. Modern headlamps are slim, befitting the shape and arrogance of the Giulia. The finishing touch is the available 19-inch dark-toned five-hole wheels wearing Pirelli P-Zero Corsa tires.

In our tester, we saw more carbon fiber inside the cabin. The optional Sparco racing seats are set in a carbon fiber shell, allowing for only an electric adjustment on seat height. You can manually set for rake and recline. For some, the leather and Alcantara seats will lock you in for the ride of your life. For others, they can be quite uncomfortable. The standard seats are more forgiving, but still with more than enough bolstering to keep you secure behind the wheel. No matter which front seats you select, the rear seats still offer the same leather/Alcantara upholstery with better comfort. Rear seat room is fine for average-sized adults.

The driver has also a mix of classic and modern touches for instrumentation and controls. The dual dial instrument binnacle is bridged by a large modern TFT information screen. Switchgear is also modern all around, including the shift-by-wire transmission lever, the climate and stalk controls. Alfa's quirks appear on some controls, but a quick review of the owner's manual will help in deciphering a few of them in no time.

Unlike most of its fellow Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' vehicles, Alfa Romeo went with their proprietary infotainment system. Once you understand how to use the large control knob, along with the adjacent volume knob and steering wheel controls, it is simply OK. Voice commands do work, as well. Sound comes from a Harman Kardon speaker system, which makes great work on reproducing music and broadcasts. New for 2018 is the addition of Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity to the system.

Our tester came with a package full of driver assistance tech, including lane change warning, adaptive cruise control, and forward collision warning among key features.

As far as how much one of these beauties cost, the base price of the Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio is $73,700. Our tester came with a sticker price of $91,095. There are five other Giulia models available—two base trims and three for the luxurious Ti model—all with the excellent 280-horsepower turbocharged four-cylinder engine. These four-cylinder powered Giulias start from $38,195.

For today's discriminating driver, this Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio combines the past with the present. It is also a superlative with massive power pulling a lighter sports sedan through the curves and down the highway. The Giulia Quadrifoglio combines Alfa Romeo's past and today's demands for performance sedan drivers. ■

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DATELAND | BY JENNIFER PARELLO

The Evil Asparagus

This morning I received a call from my good friend, Stacy, detailing an unfolding work drama with her new archenemy. The archenemy is named Fifi.

"Is she a poodle?" I asked. A fair question given her name.

"No, she's not even French. But she wants people to think she is. She's been known to wear a beret. And in meetings she is always staring off into mid-distance dreamily, as if she's listening to some inner accordion music on the bank on the Seine."

"What does she look like?" I asked. I have recently been forced to watch all the Marvel superhero movies by a dictatorial 13-year-old. I have found the villains to be disappointingly one-dimensional and their evil appearance far too obvious. If I saw a green rock-formation with red eyes powering toward me, I'd have no doubt that he was up to no good. I like my enemies to be a bit more nuanced.

"She looks like an asparagus," Stacy said. "All fancy on top and straight as a stalk from her neck down." Asparagus is my least favorite vegetable so this helped me start birthing a negative opinion of this broad before I even learned of Stacy's gripes against her.

Stacy's issues with Fifi were focused mainly on typical workplace histrionics. Fifi routinely undermined Stacy with their boss. She took credit for Stacy's work. She "forgot" to invite Stacy to important meetings.

Frankly, after the promising asparagus comparison, I was hoping for something more diabolical than routine office backstabbing. Stacy could sense that I was losing interest, so she added this log to the fire:

"And, get this! My mom visited the office a week ago. I introduced her to everyone, including Fifi because she basically threw herself in our path. And then that night—that very night!—Fifi Facebook-friended my mom! My mom called me right away. She was absolutely tickled and accused me of painting a negative portrait of Fifi."

"That is one evil asparagus!" I said, deeply impressed by Fifi's passive-aggressive master stroke.

Stacy's mom doesn't know "how to work The Facebook" so she clicks the share button, rather than the like button, on any syrupy inspirational meme that appears in her feed. Many of these memes are illustrated with sad-eyed kittens or other mournful baby animals who do not appeared to be buoyed by the motivational sentiments they're representing.

"No one ever likes or comments on the crazy nonsense my mom posts on Facebook," Stacy said. "Well, Fifi immediately liked all of her posts and left comments like: 'Kittens are the best!' I wanted to respond: 'Really? What are they the best at? Chasing string? Kittens are idiots.'"

(Readers: I do not agree that kittens are idiots.)

"My mom invited her for dinner, and Fifi accepted!" Stacy said. "By the end of the night, she'll probably be in the will."

"How do you think this will all end?" I asked. "Based on my Marvel superhero immersion classes, I'm hoping for a spectacular final battle where good does not necessarily triumph over evil."

"Well, next week, I plan to steal her lunch every day from the office refrigerator," she said.

"Not exactly what Dr. Doom would do, but it's a start," I said.

Stacy was silent for a moment. And then she asked: "Do you think sleeping with her would be a good way to vanquish her?"

I figured this was where she was headed. Stacy has a weakness for women who hate her. Now I knew exactly how this movie will end.

We find our hero, Stacy, stripped of all power and weeping hysterically as the Evil Asparagus coolly stalks out of her life. The camera pans across the room to a mewing kitten, a love gift from Stacy to Fifi. The kitten's eyes suddenly turn demonic red. ■

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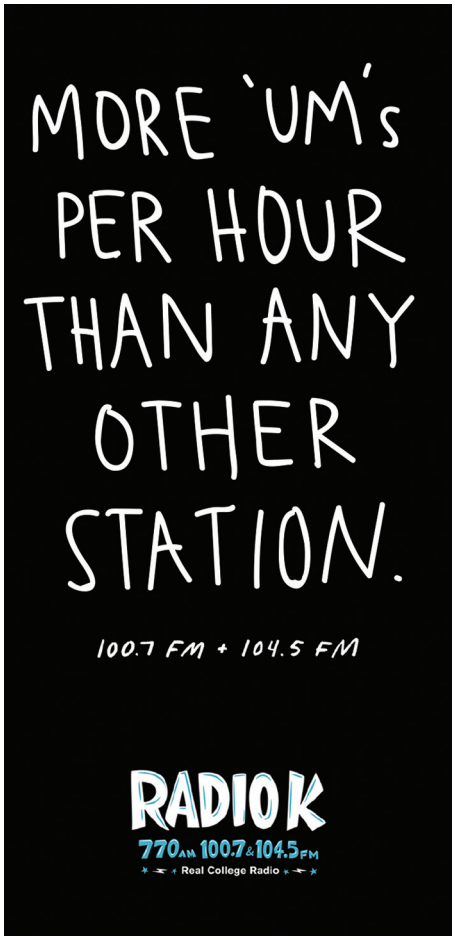

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